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myths, thus affording convenient basis for comparison. The language throughout is simple and in accord with Indian expression, and each Indian assistant is given full credit.

With so much that is good it is regrettable that we have not more, particularly in the way of notes and glossary. It has been well said that the purpose of a museum is to illustrate a series of labels. In a similar manner a main purpose of a myth collection is to illustrate custom, ritual, and language. Almost every one of these myths contains reference to some custom or ceremony of which the layman would wish to know more, while an analytic vocabulary of the Indian terms would give a deeper meaning to the myths themselves and add a philologic value to this revelation of a most interesting people.

JAMES MOONEY.

Vier Lustspiele (Der französisch-preussische Krieg—Ich gratuliere;—Grosse Wahl schafft grosse Qual—Ein Liebesbrief). Von KOSTA TRIFKOVIČ. Übersetzt und für die deutsche Bühne bearbeitet von DR FRIEDRICH S. KRAUSS. (Bibliothek angewählter serbischer Meisterwerke, Band IV). Leipzig: Deutsche Verlagsaktien Gesellschaft. 1904. 12°, xvi, 182 pages.

In the fourth volume of the Library of Servian Masterworks, which Dr Krauss is now editing, he introduces us to another talented young author who, although prematurely cut off just when life was most full of promise, has left such impress upon the literature of his people that his dramas are still the favorites of the Servian stage thirty years after his death.

Kosta Trifkovič was born of Servian parents at Neusatz, southern Hungary, in 1843, and after the usual school period and a short experience in seafaring life, he betook himself to law and literature while holding a small governmental clerkship at Budapest. His literary efforts were directed chiefly to the building up of a national Servian stage at Neusatz to rival that of Belgrade. With capacity for doing two years' work in one, and an equipment of five languages, he worked untiringly until stricken by a fever which finally resulted in his untimely death in 1875 at the age of thirty-two. In four short years of production he had brought out seven original dramas, arranged ten others from the German and French, and written two important works of fiction and an autobiography, besides critiques and numerous shorter articles which were published in a journal which he had founded.

The four specimen comedies are filled with sparkling wit and catchy verses, and a succession of bewilderingly comic situations which finally

disentangle themselves, so that all ends well at last, as a good story should. There are frequent appeals to Servian patriotism, and reference to several interesting national customs such as the New Year celebration and the betrothal feast. It is to be hoped that the translator may succeed in his efforts to bring such excellent work to a wider circle of acquaintance.

JAMES MOONEY.

Anthropophyteia : Jahrbücher für Folkloristische Erhebungen und Forschungen zur Entwicklungsgeschichte der geschlechtlichen Moral.

[Yearbooks for Folklore Collections and Investigations relating to the Historical Development of the Sexual Code.] Herausgegeben von Dr FRIEDRICH S. KRAUSS. Band I. Südslavische Volksüberlieferungen, die sich auf den Geschlechtsverkehr beziehen. I. Erzählungen, gesammelt, verdeutsch und erläutert von Dr Friedrich S. Krauss. Leipzig : Deutsche Aktien-Gesellschaft. 1904. 8°, xxii, 530 pages.

This remarkable production of the distinguished South Slavic ethnologist is the first volume of an investigation of the sexual folklore of the Balkan provinces, of which a preliminary publication appeared in *Kryptadia* (Paris) some years ago. The volume is dedicated to Dr Franz Boas of New York, who, in a brief introductory letter, points out the importance, to the student of European anthropology, of a knowledge of present conditions, as well as of vanished and vanishing customs.

The work, which is printed in numbered copies for the use of students only, embodies the result of a patient investigation of an important but peculiarly difficult and ungrateful subject along the border-line between primitive anthropology and modern civilization. From the nature of the subject it is impossible to go into detail, but it may be said briefly that every phase receives careful attention, from remains of ancient phallicism to the popular proverb. Special topics treated in this connection are supernatural conception, personal and place names, sexual teaching, betrothal and marriage customs, sexual hospitality, the *jus primæ noctis*, erotic tattooing, perversions, and modern prostitution. Most of the material is given in the form of short narrative descriptions in the various Slavic provincial dialects, with German translation and notes.

There is one curious Bosnian myth of a woman who becomes pregnant and a mother from having eaten the unconsumed heart of a sinner whose body had been given to the flames. As the manifold sins have been burned away with the body, leaving the heart in its original purity, the child grows up to be a saint. The primitive idea of the sun or moon as the fertilizer survives in the belief that a young woman may become preg-